Inadequate and Irregular Supply of Foodgrains to Ration Shops

3671. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minsitcr of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ration shops are not getting adequate and regular supply of wheat, rice and sugar etc. resulting in rise in prices of these items in the open market; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to ensure regular supply of food items to the ration shops so that public do not suffer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Government has been alloting to States adequate quantity of Rice, Wheat and Sugar. During the year 1996-97 the offtake of foodgrains under PDS has been the highest. Allocation of Sugar also was increased. This has arrested abnormal rise in prices.

(b) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System detailed guidelines have been issued to State Governments/ U.T. Administrations for ensuring all necessary arrangements for issue of foodgrains in a satisfactory and transparent manner as under the dual responsibility, reaching the PDS items to the consumer through FPS is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Allocation of Quota of Edible Oil to States

3672. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minsiter of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to allocate edible oil to the States for the whole year;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the implications thereof, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded from the Central Government for allocation of 51,000 M.Ts. edible oil for the entire year of PDS;

(d) whether Government are going to fulfil this demand; and

(e) if not, how the Maharashtra Government and other State Governments will be helped to solve the shortage of edible oil and its distribution through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No decision has yet been taken by the Government about the import of palmolcin for supply to States/UTs for the Public Distribution System during 1997-98.

(c) Government of Maharshtra has indicated requirement of 44,000 MT of imported palmolcin for the PDS during year 1997;

(d) and (c) Government supplies imported plamolein through PDS as a market intervention measure whenever nccccssary. Distribution of edible oil from the Central Pool is purely supplemental and not a regular feature as in the case of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene. In view of uniform duty for edible oil imports, both for OGL and PDS, the State Governments can import edible oil to meet their requirements.